A

# CHARACTER

OF

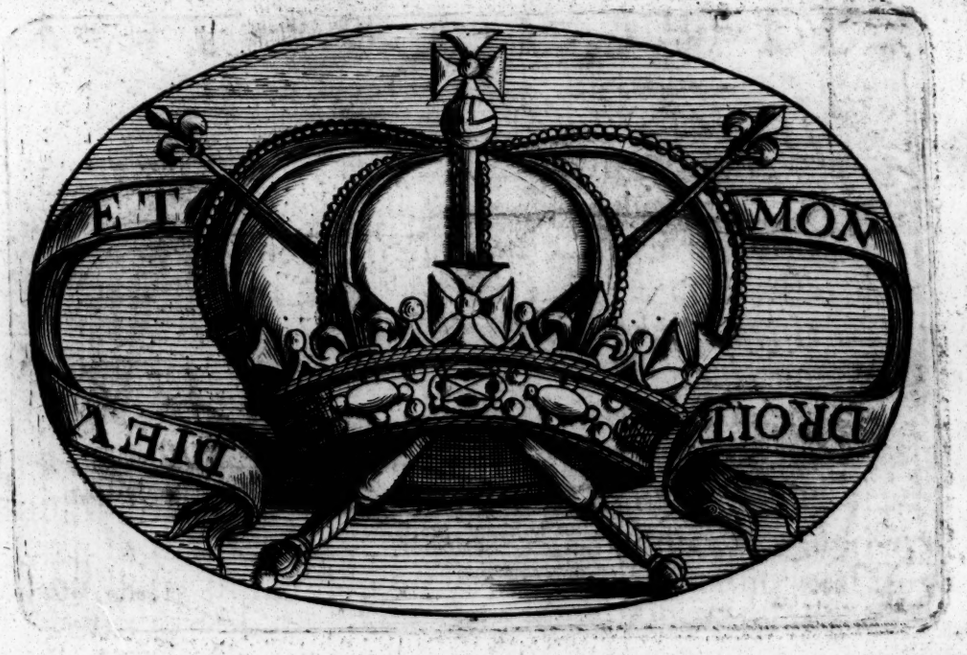
# Charles the Second

*WRITTEN*

By an Impartial Hand, and exposed to
PUBLICK VIEW

FOR

Information of the PEOPLE.



*LONDON*,
Printed for GABRIEL BEDELL, and are to be sold at the Middle Temple Gate in *Fleetstreet*, 1660.

A

# CHARACTER

OF

# Charles the Second.

# A CHARACTER OF CHARLES the IId.

IF the Naturaliſts pretend to give a reaſon why the Son of *Cræſus* who had been dumb from his infancy, ſeeing a Souldier ready to kill his Father, cryed out, *It is the KING!* the force of natural affection breaking thoſe ſtrings, which, until that moment, had tyed his tougue: Who will wonder that a man who on the buſie Theater of his Country, has hitherto preſented the Perſon of a *Mute*, ſhould violate his reſolutions of continuing ſilent, when he ſees the curſing *Shimei*'s of this depraved Nation, going to murther the good fame of his *Maſter*, his *Soveraign*, and the *common Father* of the People? Therefore, ſince my zeal to *Truth*, my veneration for *Gods Anointed*, and my tenderneſs for my *Country* has looſen'd my Tongue; I have taken the boldneſs to inform the deluded People what manner of Man he is, againſt whom theſe Serpents have ſpit their Venom.

And who may pretend to be better heard, or more believed, then a Person who has pass'd eighteen Years of his Time, in the Service and Court of this Illustrious PRINCE? And who dares challenge the World, to find in the whole process of his Life, one instance of the least deflexion from the severest rules of sincerity; which yet he does not vainly urge to enhaunse his Reputation, but to strengthen his evidence, humbly acknowledging, that he does not owe this steddiness to the complexion of his spirit, but to the goodness of *Almighty God*, who *resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

But before I begin to trace the first Lines of this Piece, I conceive it very necessary to discover those Incidents, which have conspired to abuse the Judgments of many disinteressed, well meaning Persons, who were otherwise sufficiently fortified against the practises of notorious Enemies.

So great have been the distresses of His *MAJESTY*, since he hath been exil'd from His *Kingdomes*, that he could not possibly support those many Retainers to His Court and Cause, which have been involv'd in the common Fate of His Party; and it is so natural for all men to overvalue their own merits, that they think themselves very much injur'd, if they are not admitted to equal shares with the rest of their fellow Servants, though far more eminent for their services past, and better fitted for present employments; so that neither His *MAJESTIES* insuperable necessities, nor the disparity of their deserts, could hinder these presumptuous Persons, from murmuring at his Ministers, whilst they were abroad, and blasting of his personal vertues when they returned home, and many of these unworthy men having been honour'd either with some Domestick relation to His *MAJESTY*, or at least, with free access to His Court, had such pretences to be credited even in all their reports, that whilst the KING was not known to the People, who are ever inclin'd to believe the worst, they easily perverted the candour of their opinions, either by [redacted] the Judgment of His *MAJESTY* in the choice of his *Ministers*, or prophaning His Character by most impudent slanders, especially, during the Tyranny of the late *Protector*, and the vile Instruments of his ambition, who having murthered the *Father*, and seized the Inheritance of the *Son*, knew that there were no better means to preserve their possessions, then by recriminating the Person of the Lawful Pretender; and therefore they were so prodigal of their rewards to these *Apostates*, that in the vast Profusion

so

of the publick Treasure of the Kingdom, the Salaries of these Villains will be found one of the most costly *Items*. 'Tis true, the Persons and Practises of many of these graceless men, were along time since very particularly known; but such hath been the iniquity of the Times, that men might perpetrate the blackest Crimes with more security, then Impeach a Criminal: And who then could expect that there should be found any Martyrs for the *Truth*, when it was become a Principle in their *Religion* to abet the present Power, which is, *To lye for their Interest*. So that at my return into *England*, after Eleven years absence, truly I was astonished to find that this Poyson was not more diffused, considering the activity of the deceivers, and the Slavish remissenes of those who should have generously opposed them. But it hath pleased Almighty God marvelously to preserve his *Majesties* good Name, against the malice of those wicked men who went about to slander the foot-steps of his *Anointed*.

That unhappy wretch *Manning* (when he was a Prisoner at *Colen*) confessed that his Salarie from the Protector was 100 l. a Month.

And now finding a Dawning of Liberty to assert the Truth, I am bold to expose his *Picture* to the publick view, whose *Person* will hereafter (when his Luster shall break through the Clouds of his misfortunes) prove the Delight of our Eyes. Though *Plato* hath made the Soul to be the Definition of man, allowing the *Bodie* to be only the *Carriage of the Spirit*, yet since we receive our Information of Corporeal Subjects, as well from our Sense as our Understanding, I think it very proper to describe his *Majesties* Person as well as his Qualities.

He is somewhat Taller then the middle stature of *English men*; so exactly form'd, that the most curious Eye cannot finde one Error in his shape. His Face is rather Grave then Severe, which is very much softned whensoever he speaks: His Complexion is somewhat dark, but much enlightned by his Eyes which are Quick and Sparkling. Untill he was near Twenty years of Age, the Figure of his Face was very Lovely; but he is since grown Lean, and now the Majesty of his Countenance supplies the Lines of Beautie. His Hair, which he has in great plenty, is of a shining Black, not frizled, but so Naturally Curling into great Rings, that it is a very comely Ornament. His Motions are so easie and graceful, that they do very much recommend his Person when he either Walks, Dances, playes at *Pal Maille*, at Tennis, or rides the great Horse, which are his usual Exercises. In summe, his *Meene* does denote his Qualitie; and whereseever he appears, he easily obtains the respect and affection of all that approach him;

to

To the gracefulneſs of his deportment, may be joyn'd his eaſineſs of acceſs, his Patience in Attention, and the Gentleneſs, [redacted] both in the tone and ſtyle of his ſpeech; ſo that thoſe whom either the veneration for his dignity, or the Majeſty of his preſence have put into an awful reſpect, are re-aſſur'd aſſoon as he enters into converſation; and this I have often heard obſerv'd by many perſons of quality of ſeveral Nations, eſpecially by the *French*, who are naturally more ſerene and jovial, then the People of theſe Northern Countries, who at firſt approach'd him with ſome conſtraint, until his MAJESTY was better known to them; but to deal ingeniouſly, theſe advantages were not born with him, for he was too reſerv'd in his youth, but he owes theſe (with many other excellencies) to his misfortunes, which forcing him to communicate himſelf to all ſorts of people of the ſeveral Nations where he has ſojourn'd, have cultivated his manners, and render'd his perfections habitual.

Amongſt his acquir'd endowments, theſe are the moſt eminent, He underſtand *Spaniſh*, and *Italian*; ſpeaks and writes *French* correctly; He is well verſ'd in ancient and modern *Hiſtory*, has read divers of the choiceſt Peeces of the *Politicks*, has ſtudied ſome uſeful parts of the *Mathematicks*, as *Fortification*, and the knowledg of the *Globe*; but his chief delight is in *Navigation*, to which his *Genius* does ſo incline him, that by his frequent converſation with Mariners, and his own obſervation whilſt he rid ſix weeks in the *Downes*, and in his paſſage into *Scotland*, he has arriv'd to ſo much knowledg in this Science, that I have heard many expert Seamen (whoſe diſcourſes are not ſteer'd by the compaſs of the Court) ſpeak of it with delight and wonder; in *General*, here is a true friend to *Literature*, and to *Learned Men*.

But I conceive my ſelf oblig'd to be more particular in my diſcouſe upon his *Natua' qualities*, becauſe they import the well or ill-being of all thoſe who are under his Dominion; for though his outward accompliſhments, may ſufficiently recommend him to diſintereſſed ſtrangers, yet they are only his *genuine Vertues*, which can render him agreeable to his own Subjects; amongſt which I will aſſign the firſt place to his Underſtanding, ſince without this, the reſt of his vertues, will have little ſignification towards the happineſs of his People; for if he wanted that, it were more to the purpoſe to deſcribe his *Miniſters* then his MAJESTY; and tis they would have the dominion over the Poeple, whilſt he repreſented only the

the ſign of a King: But I dare aſſure the Nation that this will not be our caſe, for his MAJESTY has not only a ſolid Judgment which (if the method of this diſcourſe would permit) I could evince by many pregnant inſtances, as well as by the univerſal conceſſion of all the judicious men that know him: but his MAJESTY is ſo well, yet ſo modeſtly perſwaded of it, that he dares truſt himſelf, and is not capable of being carryed about with every Wind of Counſil; ſo that it will prove to be as truly ſaid of his MAJESTY, as of his Grand-father, *Henry the Fourth, He that would corrupt his Council, muſt firſt begin with the King*: And when his Subjects ſhall conſider the advantages of his Education, the different Nations and Factions that he has had to deal with, the direct oppoſition of his Enemies, and the treachery of his ſeeming Friends, the neceſſity of his treating with ſeveral Parties in Perſon, (becauſe they would not truſt thoſe who were about him) the Variety and Force of his Experience, from the diſtinct knowledg of the Natures of the *People* of ſeveral *Countries*, of their chief *Miniſters* of State, with the Intrigues of Government, both in their *Churches* and *Common-wealths*, which other Princes have not had the opportunity, or misfortune to diſcover, and all theſe Leſſons deriv'd from their natural Springs, and learn'd in that excellent School of Adverſity, which opens the Underſtanding, and confirms the Judgment; when theſe particulars are well conſidered, I believe, I ſhall not be put upon my Oath to prove this Article.

Though the Sagacity of his Spirit may be of great advantage to himſelf or Friends, yet it will have no comfortable influence upon his Subjects in general, unleſs it be alſo accompanied with *Juſtice*, and therefore this is the Virtue which is next to be conſidered.

If *Juſtice* be well defin'd by the Moraliſts to be, *The conſtant Will of giving to every man his due*, then may I ſafely pronounce his *Majeſty* to be a Juſt perſon. And though I have met with ſome reports which ſeem to impugne this Aſſertion, yet upon due examination of them, I am the more confirmed in this Character: For though the defection of ſome of the Royal Party has given his *Majeſty* general grounds of ſuſpition, yet there is no man more averſe then himſelf to entertain an evil Opinion of any perſon, of whoſe honeſty he has had experience. But it hath been his fortune (as what Prince or private perſon can avoide it?) to have ſome abſent perſons of Merit and Integrity miſrepreſented to him.

him by ſuch ſubtile Arts as humane wit could not at the preſent find out the falſhood. Some of theſe Innocent ſufferers, either from the confidence of their own Sincerity, or, poſſibly, from their indifferency for his *Majeſties* good Opinion (he not being in a condition either to reward or puniſh) have neglected their defence, and lain for ſome time under his Diſpleaſure; but as ſoon as he once diſcovered the abuſe (though without their applications) he has not only made them very Honorable reparations, but marked the Informers with a publick Character of Infamy: And of this particular I have ſo diſtinct a knowledg, that I do as confidently believe he is *Juſt*, as that he is a *Man*.

Theſe generous Qualities are actuated by the *Magnanimitie* of his mind, expreſſed in his *Fortitude* and *Courage*, which I may beſt compare to one another; for his *Majeſty* hath ſhewed as great *Courage* in his attempts, to recover his juſt rights, as *Fortitude* in his ſubmiſſion to Providence, in the deciſion of the Battel againſt him; and yet there have been ſome Infectious breathes, who have endeavoured to blaſt his juſt Reputation; but he hath ſo ſignaliz'd his *Courage* whereſoever he appeard, that even his inveterate Enemy *Cromwell* himſelf, could nor refuſe him his juſt praiſes, though it was not his cuſtome to give his Enemies their due honor, or to tell a truth, that might redound to his Prejudice: But as this Character is not doubted by his Friends abroad, ſo I wiſh that it may never be known by experience to his Enemies at home.

But that they may not be alarm'd by this laſt Period; I do aſſure them, that *Clemencie* is as natural to his *Majeſty*, as *Courage*: which is a Propoſition that proves it ſelf; for there is no Man truly valiant, that can be cruel; and it were to degrade himſelf, not to pardon Injuries; for in taking *Revenge*, a man is but even with his Enemy: but in paſſing it over, he is become his Superiour. Theſe are general notions which I muſt apply to their particulers whom it may concern: His *Majeſties* genuine *Clemency* is confirmd by his veneration for his *Fathers memory*, who left him his commands to pardon his Enemies, (even thoſe Enemies, who mingled their hands in his innocent blood) as his laſt Legacie; and I do know, that he is convinced, that it is his intereſt to forgive thoſe that have oppos'd him, if they produce any ſeaſonable Teſtimonies of their return and and good intentions towards him; knowing that the deſpairs of his Enemies, may produce cruel effects to his Friends: and he deſires to make his acceſs to his Throne as Innocent, and as certain as he can; and therefore

fore as the common *Father of his People*, he endeavours that we ſhould reconcile and embrace like Brethren; and concludes, That the beſt means to reſtore the crazie Body of the Kingdome to its former health and vigour, is not to cure one part, by afflicting of the other; but to heal thoſe wounds which are already feſtred by their proper lenitives, and to remove (as much as lies in his power) all the cauſes of future Animoſities; and this (to the beſt of my remembrance) is the ſubſtance of a diſcourſe, which I have lately heard from his MAJESTIES own *Mouth* upon this Subject.

But His MAJESTIES Natural *Clemency* may poſsibly want the deſirable Effects towards penitent Offenders, if he be not poſſeſt of a *Religious Fidelity of performing his Promiſe*, and a *Conſtancy of Reſolution*: If at leaſt the ill advis'd Paſsion of the parties that have ſuffered ſhould ever incline them to importune him for their revenge, under the Stile of *Juſtice*; To this I reply, That Perfidiouſneſs and Irreſolution are ſo directly oppoſite to thoſe Qualities which I have already enumerated in his MAJESTIES CHARACTER, that they are altogerher inconſiſtent; and if he ſhould have the leaſt inclination to *Hypocriſie*, that which I have hitherto ſaid of him cannot be true; but he knows very well that the Reputation of Faithfulneſs is one of the chiefeſt Pillars of Regal Power; and that even his Friends may reaſonably ſuſpect the performance of his Promiſes to them, if he breaks his Faith to his Enemies.

But to be more particular, I have often heard His MAJESTY declaim againſt the perfidious practices, which he had obſerv'd in the Negotiations of ſome Publick *Miniſters* abroad; and Men do not uſe to declare an open War againſt thoſe Vices, to which themſelves are obnoxious; and I could name ſome Perſons, whom he is pleaſ'd to honour with a particular eſteem, that have no other conſpicuous Virtue beſides their impregnable Honeſty; for there is nothing in Nature more productive of friendſhip, then ſome reſemblance in manners: But the narrowneſs of his Fortune not ſuffering him to ſupply ſome empty men, as profuſely, as they had promiſ'd themſelves; they

have branded His MAJESTY with Ingratitude, and Unfaithfulnſs, Sins which he abhors both from his Nature and Judgment.

A Man that is only *Innocent*, and not actively *Vertuous*, is ſo near to imperfection and weakneſs, that it is hard to diſtinguiſh their confines; and if it be granted that His MAJESTY does poſſeſs theſe Illuſtrious Qualities, yet if he wants the Nature to produce them by Practiſe, they may ſerve his Flatterers for *Panegyricks*, but they will be of little benefit to his People; therefore it is neceſſary to evince his *Induſtry*, to comfirm the Character of an accompliſh'd Prince.

There was for a long time ſo dead a Calm in his buſineſs, his Enemies being ſo ſtrong at home, and his Friends ſo engaged abroad, that he could not make one notorious, prudent ſtep towards his recovery, which his cautelous Enemies have repreſented to the undiſcerning people under the reproach of *Lazineſs*. But the beſt of it is, he has had an Army of his own *Subjects* for the Witneſſes as well of his *Induſtry* as *Courage*: And if theſe uningenuous cenſurers had been of his Train the laſt Year, when his *Majeſty* rid Poſt above two hundred Leagues through *France* and part of *Spain*, in the heat of Summer, I perſwade my ſelf they would have confeſſed their own wearineſs, though poſſibly they had denyed his Diligence: And he ſpares his *Mind* as little as his *Bodie*, for beſides his converſation with Books, he conſults and inſtructs all men that addreſs to him in his buſineſs; and amongſt his *Correſpondents* (which are not few) it may be there will ſcarce be found *One* to whom he ows a *Letter*

Amongſt the *Moral Vertues* there are ſome which have not ſuch glorious names as theſe which I have already mentioned; but I think they are very conſiderable, becauſe they are more diffus'd into the ordinary Actions of our lives. In this number I reckon *Temperance in Speech*, wherein his *Majeſty* ſo excels, that I have often thought of it with

with admiration; for though I have sometimes seen him very justly angry, yet the hardest expression that I have ever heard him use to a *Gentleman*, was once, and but once, when he told one of his domesticks, That he was an Insolent fellow: And though the Author of *A late Letter from a near Attendant on his Majesty, dated from Brussels*, and written at *London*, may possibly be displeased with this contradiction, yet out of my respect to *Truth*, I am bold to affirm, That to the best of my remembrance, I never heard his *Majesty* swear an Oath in my life: But it is well known out of what quiver these poisoned arrows come, which being shot against the impenetrable Buckler of his Innocency, will rebound upon the faces of those wicked men that did first level them.

To this may be joyn'd his *Sobriety* in *Diet*, in which he seldome makes the least excess, though he stands not in awe of his *Constitution*; for he is of so healthful a *Temperament*, that I have not known him above thrice sick these eighteen Years: But he so Naturally hates *Debauchery*, that his severity to this vice has cured some habitual drunkards, who have chosen rather to part with their beloved sins, then with his *Majesties* Favour.

Though I can neither impugne nor defend the constant austerity of his *Majestics* life, since it is possible that in the heats of his Youth he may have rendred to the powerful charms of Beauty; yet I am certain that for many years he hath been so Chast and Cautious, that I have not heard the least whisper of any indecent *Gallantry*: And yet his impudent Enemies have not only reproached him with habitual *Incontinence*, and forc'd their slanders with false and frivolous tales, knowing that Fame, like water, bears up light things and swallows the heavy; but they have suborned their Mercenary *Prophets* to denounce *Gods* Judgments against him, for these supposed Frailties; and to infer with as ill *Morality* as *Logick*, That his *Majesty* is unfit for Government, because that in his Youth he may not have been stronger then *Samson*, wiser then *Solomon*, or more holy then *David*. But whosoever will impartially consider his just Cha-

racter, and compare him either with the ancient or modern Princes of the World, will hardly find a precedent where so many shining qualities are assembled, or so little shadowed with any inclinations to vice: and if solid *Vertue* and *Abilities* for Government were a just title to Dominion, the *British* Ocean would not be the confines of his Empire.

These *Excellent Qualities* are the products of a happy *Nature*, or a generous *Education*, but as the soul informs the body, so it is *Religion* which animates the Character of Christian Princes, and crowns their moral perfections, and therefore as the most eminent, I have reserv'd that to finish this Peece.

For his interiour *Piety*, I leave it to the *Searcher* of thoughts, in whose hands are the hearts of *Kings*; for to us, the Tree is only known by the fruits; neither will I extend my self upon the discourse of his *Humility*, *Meekness*, *Charity*, and other divine Graces; since these produce the same effects (though more rais'd, because they are deriv'd from a higher Cause) which I have already treated under other names; and they are fitter for the Pens of those who have entrance into the *Sanctuary*, then for a secular Person; therefore I shall only insist upon His MAJESTIES *Firmness to his Religion*, as the most conducing to our purpose.

And in this particular, he hath given such signal testimonies to the world, that I wonder at the folly, as well as the malice of his Enemies, that have planted their Batteries against this point; but it is a *Maxime* deriv'd from the Father of Lyes, *To calumniate boldly, that some thing may remain*, and the People are so susceptible of tales, that it is hard to invent a *Fable* which is above their Faith.

His MAJESTY having passed ten years of his exile in the territories of *Catholick* Princes, in *France*, *Germany*, and *Flanders*, it cannot be doubted that he has been frequently importuned to change his *Religion*, either by

by those who out of a firm perswasion of the verity of their own belief, have thought it a charity to make him a *Convert*; or those, who from the presumption of their great abilities in *Controversie*, have had the ambition to add so illustrious a Person to the number of their *Proselytes*, or those *Politicians*, who (despairing of his re-establishment, unless by the assistance of *Catholick Princes*) have urged his conversion to the *Roman Faith*, as the best means to take the benevolence of his *Allyes*: But they have all encountred such an immovable firmness in his MAJESTY to the *Principles* of his *Religion*, that they have retir'd from the assault with no other effects, then the satisfaction of having discharged their *Consci nces*, by their officious *Councils*.

Amongst many other *Champions* of the *Roman Church*; His MAJESTY was frequently attacqued (whilst he remained in *France*) by *Monsieur de la Melitiere*, a man of an excellent spirit, who had been formerly a *Calviniſt*, and by *Monsieur Salmonet*, originally a *Scotch-man*, and favorite to the *Cardinal de Retz*, who have since printed and published the Arguments of their conference; and there is hardly any *Roman Catholick* [redacted] of note for Piety or Learning in any part of the World, where his MAJESTY hath been, that has not joyn'd his Forces to combate him for his *Religion*.

And shall he that has pass'd so succesfully through a ten years War in the defence of his *Faith*, be rob'd of his *Triumph*, and of His *Highest Title*, by the tongue or pen of a perjur'd Villain? We must then conclude, that *Justice is fl d to Heaven*, and has left us nothing here but her *Ballance*, in which these wretched men do weigh their worldly Interests, against all the moral and divine Vertues; but *Truth will be justified of her Children*, and His MAJESTIES perseverance in his *Religion* will be dear to the truly pious *People* of this *Nation*, when the faces of these slanderers shall grow black with confusion.

But His MAJESTIES Fervour for his own way of *Worship* does not invade his Charity to *dissenting Christians*: He is convinced by his *Experience*,

*rience*, as well as by his *Reason*, That *Consciences are not to be forc'd*, and that men may reasonably suspect the truth of that *Religion*, which useth the *Sword* for her *Argument*; since it is as much against *Reason* as *Charity*, to persecute those who may be in the *right*, or if not, shall by this means be kept longer in the *wrong*; And therefore those *tender Consciences*, who worship *God* in the sincerity of their spirits, and do not dissent from their Brethren, to advance their humane Interests, ought to joyn in their Prayers to *Almighty God*, with the rest of the People to place this *Religious*, *Virtuous King* in Peace, upon the Throne of his *Ancestors*.

And if the Illustrious Birth of His *Sacred* MAJESTY, His *Just Title* to *dominion* over us, warranted by the *Lawes* of these Kingdomes, and marvelously asserted by the *Providence* of *God*; and who, (besides his *Acquir'd Perfections*) is possest of *Wisdome*, *Justice*, *Fortitude*, *Courage*, *Clemency*, *Faithfulness*, *Industry*, *Temperanee*, and *Steddiness* to his *Religion*; If these *Eminent Qualities* may derive happiness to His *People*, Then it is in our power to be happy, and He is bold to pronounce this to his *Fellow Subjects*; *Who is so farre from betraying his Country for his Prince*, *that he would not betray a Private Person*, *either for his Prince or Country*.

---

FINIS.

---

17819

54998